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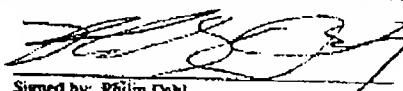
Patent
Case No.: 57255US002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: CLARK, JOHN C.
Application No.: 09/997081 Group Art Unit: 1753
Filed: November 28, 2001 Examiner: Kishor Mayekar
Title: ELECTROPHORETICALLY DEPOSITED HYDROPHILIC COATINGS FOR FUEL
CELL DIFFUSER/CURRENT COLLECTOR

REPLY UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION	
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:	
August 16, 2004 Date	 Signed by: Philip Dahl

Dear Sir:

This Reply follows the Office Action dated April 16, 2004, in the above-identified application.

Under the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.136(a), Applicant petitions to extend the period for filing a reply in the above-identified application. The requested extension and appropriate fee are as follows (check time period desired):

- ☒ 37 CFR § 1.17(a)(1) - Extension within first month
☐ 37 CFR § 1.17(a)(2) - Extension within second month
☐ 37 CFR § 1.17(a)(3) - Extension within third month
☐ 37 CFR § 1.17(a)(4) - Extension within fourth month.

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Application No.: 09/997081

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Bett nowhere teaches a process of electrophoretic deposition, and is therefore inapposite to the present claims. In addition, the reference nowhere teaches the use of a carbon fiber construction, as recited in all of the rejected claims. Furthermore, Bett nowhere teaches the use of ZrO_2 , as recited in claim 6, and nowhere teaches a hydrophilic carbon fiber construction capable of wicking 200mg or 250mg of water per 40mg, as recited in claims 10 and 11 respectively.

Illston likewise fails to teach the use of a carbon fiber construction, as recited in all of the rejected claims. Also like Bett, Illston nowhere teaches the use of ZrO_2 , as recited in claim 6, and nowhere teaches a hydrophilic carbon fiber construction capable of wicking 200mg or 250mg of water per 40mg, as recited in claims 10 and 11 respectively.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the rejections of claims 1-11 under 35 USC § 103(a) have been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

August 16, 2004

Date

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